



# ADDRESS

BY

SIR JAMES GRANT, M. D., K. C. M. G., F. R. C. P. (Lond.)

BEFORE THE

## American Public Health Association

AT A MEETING HELD IN

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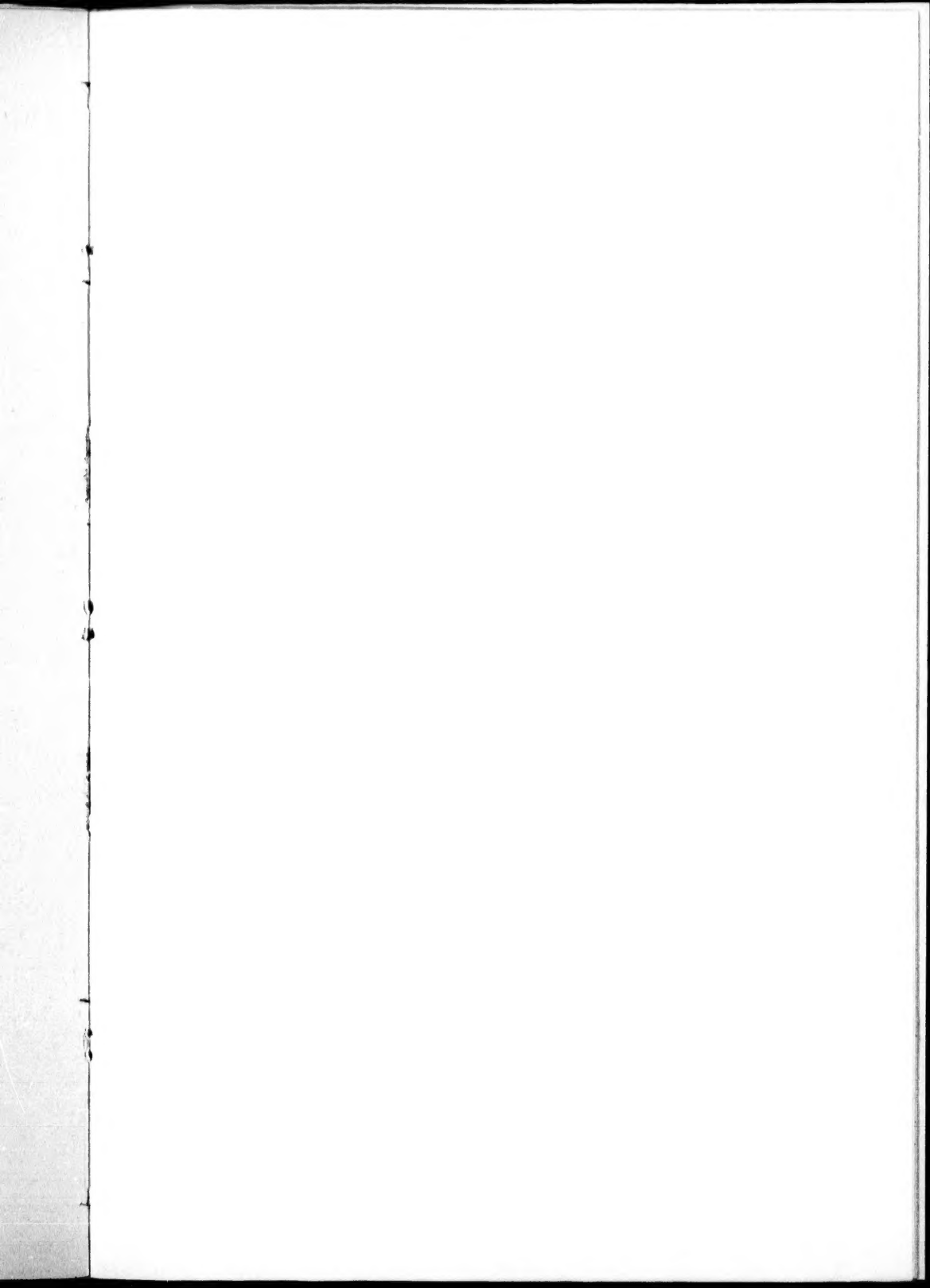
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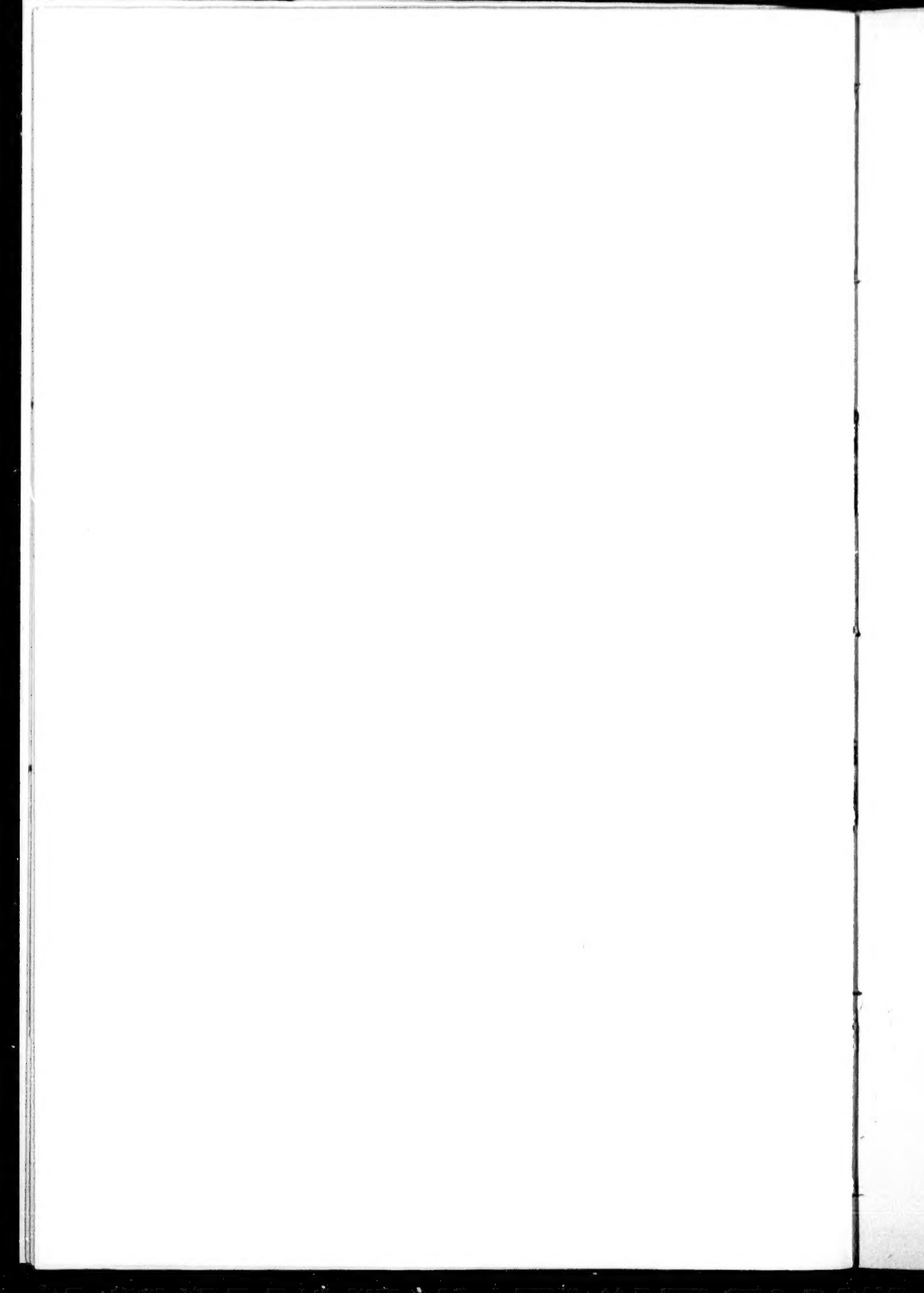
MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—It is to me a source of pride and gratification to have the pleasure of extending to you to-night a word or two of welcome. Your meeting is great in its character. The Honorable Minister of Agriculture has announced that you have met in Canada three times, twice previous to the present time. This is the first occasion in which you have assembled in the Capital of the Dominion of Canada. During the past quarter of a century, in no department of science has greater progress or advancement been made than in sanitary science. In 1873, when I had the pleasure of listening to the inaugural address of the late Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, at Washington, in which he took a most comprehensive view of the importance of this whole subject, the impressions made on that occasion and the information disseminated throughout the wide world, were very deep. He struck the keynote that has placed sanitary science to-day on that important foundation on which it rests. He announced at that time that no less than two hundred thousand people were slaughtered annually, in the great American Republic, by inattention to preventable diseases. Mr. Simon, the great sanitarian of England, almost about the same time, stated the mortality in Great Britain was one hundred and twenty thousand annually, and Dr. Farr, the greatest statistician on the subject of public health that ever lived, stated the mortality in Great Britain reached fully a hundred and fifty thousand annually. When we consider this mortality, and that it arises from diseases that are purely preventable, is it any wonder that the sanitarians of the great American Republic should co-operate with those in the same department in Canada, and other countries, for the purpose of improving the health and happiness of our people? We know perfectly well that since the address of Dr. Bowditch, associations have been formed in a great many states of the American Republic, and are now carrying on active and energetic work, with the most practical results. And I am glad also to announce to the members of the American Public Health Association that the Province of Ontario has been up and doing in the past twenty-five years. The Government of Ontario has exercised its power and ability in the formation of a Bureau of Public Health, and they have quietly and judiciously examined into the wants and requirements of our people, throughout the length and breadth of the Province, and Dr. Bryce, as

its Secretary, is worthy of the highest commendation, for the efforts that he has put forth, to establish healthy improvements in this Province. If we inquire to-day what they have done, we have only to look at the records published annually; thus has disease been stayed. Look at our people; do they give indications of decay and decrepitude? Very far from it. We know perfectly well that the great disease which we have in Canada to-day, and which you will find inscribed on the tombstones, is "old age." (Laughter.)

In Canada we have many educational institutions, and it was my duty twenty-five years ago, when the President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, to insist with the other members of that worthy body, in having a department of sanitary science introduced into our universities and taught there as one of the requirements of medical education. And such it is to-day, not only in our universities, but also in our public schools and institutions, we find one of the largest departments attended, is that of sanitary science. Having just returned from the great Congress of the British Medical Association, at Edinburgh, let me tell you that one of the subjects which engrossed the greatest amount of their attention was that of sanitary science. The two questions taken up particularly were the pollution of rivers, the dissemination of tuberculosis, and other points pertaining deeply to sanitary science. We find that the subject of tuberculosis to-day is engrossing the attention of the entire medical world. Professor Bryce, in his recent address to the Province of Ontario, has pointed out that within the last twelve months there was a remarkable decrease in mortality. And let me tell you here to-night, that in Great Britain there is no subject now being more thoroughly and carefully discussed than that of milk, in order to ascertain whether the tuberculous animal, that produces milk, as an article of nourishment communicates the disease to the human family. This is a subject of vast importance, and so it has struck the public mind, that the various sanitary associations to-day are insisting upon the ferreting out of herds of cattle, that produce tuberculous milk, having these cattle examined at stated intervals, by a thorough veterinary surgeon, to determine whether or not there is the development of tuberculosis in the slightest degree. It is only in this way that we can guard public health and watch over the necessary requirements, in order to maintain vitality in our midst.

There are some other points upon which I should like to say a few words this evening. Our worthy Minister for the Department of Agriculture has mentioned this evening a subject which is to me of very great moment indeed. He speaks of the improvement of public health and how much the Dominion Government is interested in it.





Well, let me say to-night that the medical men of Canada for years past have been endeavoring to impress upon the minds of the public men of Canada, the importance of public health study, so as to guide and direct the health of the people, not of any one province, but of the entire Dominion, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We felt there was no subject to-day which should engross the attention and careful observation of those in charge of the government of our country more than the establishment here in the Capital of Canada of a Bureau of Public Health. (Applause.) We know perfectly well that the importance of this subject has been impressed upon the minds of the public men in the American Republic, and I trust the day is not far distant when those who guide and direct the interests of this country will see that it is incumbent upon them to take into serious consideration the formation of a Bureau of Public Health, to give the people of Canada an adequate return for the exercise of mental and physical power exercised in the development of the best interests of Canada. (Applause.)

One other point is this, and I am sure you will agree with me: Sanitary science as a whole has done a great deal for our people. We know the mind exerts a powerful influence over the body. When the mind is healthy, we also have a healthy body; and when we see now in every public demonstration in the great American Republic, as well as in the Dominion of Canada, the two flags, American and British, blended together, it is an indication of the happiness and prosperity of our people; and you may rely upon it, that if the health of our people is directed along this course, it is evidence of a condition which I trust will long continue.

I am extremely pleased and gratified that so many members of the learned professions have come to Canada in order to see what kind of people we are. You may rest assured that while you are here we will extend to you a hearty welcome, not only to this Province, but to every portion of it, as indicated by the worthy Minister of Agriculture who has preceded me. And to the gentlemen from Mexico, I trust that great country, which we know takes an important interest in sanitary science, as well as in other sciences, let me say that I hope this is not the last time that we shall have an opportunity of welcoming them to Canada. We wish you a happy sojourn here, and a safe return to your homes. May this visit to our Dominion be one that will make a deep impression, not only upon the people of Canada, but Mexico and the neighboring Republic in the advocacy of the subject of sanitary science, which is so intimately associated with, the welfare of the people of this world. (Loud applause.)